

# **Pakistani Al Qaeda leader killed in U.S. strike**

**Pakistani officials say Ilyas Kashmiri, head of Al Qaeda's paramilitary operations in Pakistan, was killed in a strike Sept. 7 near the border and an Uzbek commander was slain in a strike this week.**

September 18, 2009|Alex Rodriguez and Zulfiqar Ali

ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN, AND PESHAWAR, PAKISTAN — A missile fired by a U.S. drone killed a top Al Qaeda operations chief and two other militant commanders in the volatile North Waziristan region, Pakistani military and intelligence sources said Thursday.

The killing of Ilyas Kashmiri, who headed Al Qaeda's paramilitary operations in his native Pakistan, is the latest in a series of successful strikes against Al Qaeda and Taliban militants in the tribal areas along the border with Afghanistan.